(b) whether in the present industrial and economic climate, employment generation on a significant scale can take place in the unorganised sector, mainly agriculture;

(c) whether the promotion of agricultural growth should be the focus of Government policy; and

(d) if so, whether public investment should shift from subsidization of agricultural inputs to investment in irrigation and land development and, if so, what steps Government intend to take in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Despite some shifts in occupational structure in favour of secondary and tertiary sectors during the last two decades, agriculture still occupies a predominant place in employment structure employing about two-third of the total workers and bulk of employment opportunities will have to accrue in unorganised sector including agriculture.

(c) The Government attaches high priority to agriculture. Eighth Plan aims at not only achieving self-sufficiency in food but also generating surplus of specific Agricultural commodities for export.

(d) The Government aims at reducing subsidies and rationalising farm inputs prices so as to divert larger resources for investment in agriculture and irrigation.

Seed Producing Companies

7122. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTUR be pleased to state:

(a) the seed producing companies which are working in collaboration with foreign companies;

(b) what variety of seeds these companies are selling at present alongwith their quantity; and

(c) what variety of seeds is imported by them annually with details of their quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) At present there are fifty seed producing companies working in collaboration with foreign companies.

(b) and (c) The collaborations of these companies have been approved mainly for production of hybrid Sunflower seeds, vegetable seeds, propagating material of trees, shrubs and ornamental flowers and seeds and seedlings of agro-forestry. Details of companywise seed sales are not available. The quantity of seeds imported into the country was 428.390. 148.082 and 235.064 MTs in the year 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 (Upto December, 93) respectively. The imported seeds pertained mainly to vegetable seeds like cabbage, tomato and cauliflower etc., sunflower, flower seeds, oramental palm seeds, and forest seeds etc.

Subsidy on Plant Projective Chemicals

7123. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Sector/Centrally sponsored schemes subsidy on Plant Protection Chemical allowed by them for various schemes are not on a uniform pattern;

(b) whether it is a fact that in some schemes the subsidy is @ 25 per cent of the cost and in some @50 per cent; and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Rajasthan Government have approached the Central Government time and again over this matter but with no result and no decision has been taken so far; and